

My name is Amanda Peixoto, and I am a 5th Grade Teacher at the Segue Institute for Learning in Central Falls, RI. I am also a RI resident in the city of East Providence. I am against the H-5193 bill that would establish a three-year moratorium on the expansion of charter schools in Rhode Island.

Segue was recently approved to expand their school by 120 seats, making us a full K-8 school. This expansion would block us from expanding, and also take away the opportunity for new students to join our program. We love our students and we devote our time and energy into making sure they have a successful, high quality educational experience.

Last year alone, over 10,000 families applied to Rhode Island charter schools for only 1,900 available seats. In December 2020, 4 new charter schools and 4 expansions on existing charter schools were approved by the R.I. Council of Education. This now provides 5,800 new seats for Rhode Island families who have applied to charters.

I urge you to vote against this bill so the opportunity for families to explore their educational options is not taken away.

Thank you.

Amanda Peixoto